

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Submitted herewith is a Petition to Revive an Unintentionally Abandoned Application Under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b), accompanied by the corresponding Patent Office fee. Also submitted herewith is a Request for Continued Examination and corresponding fee.

Furthermore, submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 §1.132, executed by the Inventor of the present patent application, and presented to distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art of record.

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stout (U.S. Patent No. 4,822,157) in view of Falge (U.S. Patent No. 1,768,354). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The mirror assembly of claim 1 is of a particular type which is specifically suited to provide a view along the front and at least one side of a school bus vehicle.

The outer surface of the mirror element is convex and generally dome-shaped. This type of mirror surface is needed for obtaining coverage of a certain viewing zone, which is quite important, in view of the fact the these types of mirrors are used on school buses where child safety is involved. Automotive mirrors are often treated with anti-glare materials and a compromise is made between obtaining the maximum brightness of the image and the desire to suppress glare that may result from any source.

In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention, the anti-glare treatment of the present invention commences at an uppermost position on the contoured mirror surface and ends at a curved line, which curves relative to the straight bisecting line, for example, as shown in Fig. 2A of the instant specification.

Respectfully, the prior art does not show the invention of claim 1, particularly as amended herein. The Examiner contends that the teachings of Stout meet all of the limitations of applicant's invention, except a "portion of the mirror element being treated for reducing glare." Accordingly, the Examiner cites to Falge for providing this element. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not teach the instant invention. The Falge reference, applicant continues to maintain, is actually two mirrors, each with a respective reflexive property. This is unlike applicant's claim 1 mirror element that is treated to

reduce glare without rendering the treated surface opaque as to be non-reflective. Thus, applicant's mirror provides a single image of the space in front and alongside the bus, both at ground level and higher up. Yet the higher portion of the same image is less bright. This is not taught or suggested by Stout or Falge, taken alone or in combination.

The remaining claims in the application depend from claim 1 and impose further limitations thereon which distance them even more apart from the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the claims in the application distinguish over the prior art and merit allowance.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stout (U.S. Patent No. 4,822,157) in view of Falge (U.S. Patent No. 1,768,354), with or without Malifaud (U.S. Patent No. 3,199,114). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 depends directly from claim 1, and therefore is patentable for the same reasons as set forth above, as well as because of the combination of features in claim 7 with the features set forth in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Malifaud does not provide the elements of applicant's claim 1 that are missing from the teachings Stout and Falge. Therefore, applicant submits that claim 7 is allowable, as well.

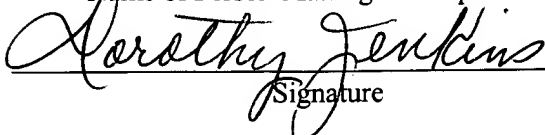
Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label #EV605033642US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 22, 2006:

Dorothy Jenkins

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence


Signature

February 22, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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